have been taken in this regard. These include, inter alia, the following:—

Foreigners Issue

1. The Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Rules, 1956 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, were amended.
2. Eleven Tribunals under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 have been created in Assam for identifying foreigners of 1966—71 stream.
3. Special Registration officers have been appointed. Sanction was also accorded for the creation of 1280 additional posts under the prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners Scheme.
4. Sixteen Tribunals under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 have been created in Assam.

Safeguards and Economic Development

5. Setting up of Srimati Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati is in progress. A sum of Rs. 10 crores has already been released.
6. Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati is being modernised and expanded.
7. Many important projects have been taken up for economic development of the State. The work on the Oil Refinery at Numaligarh is nearing completion. The gas based power project at Kathalguri would also be fully commissioned this year.
8. Two Central Universities, one at Tejpur and the other at Silchar, have been set up.
9. An IIT has been set up at Guwahati.

Other Issues:

10. The Power to issue citizenship certificates now vests only with the Central Government.
11. 84% of sanctioned border fencing of 158 kms. has been completed on Assam-Bangladesh border.
12. Ex-gratia payment was made to the next of kin of persons killed in the course of the agitation.
13. Disciplinary cases against employees in connection with the agitation were reviewed.
14. In the matter of recruitment, orders were issued by the Central Government for relaxation in upper age limit upto a maximum of six years in the case of candidates who had ordinarily resided in the state of Assam during the period 1.1.1980 to 15.8.1985.
15. NSA detenues detained in connection with agitation were released.

Traffic Signals in Delhi

1566. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many of the traffic signals have remained out of order in Delhi for several months despite the claims to the contrary by Delhi Traffic Police;

(b) whether it is a fact that maintenance of these signals is in the hands of the private individuals/ organisations who are paid huge sums for this purpose annually;

(c) if so, the annual expenditure on the maintenance; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to put these signals in good working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Delhi Police have reported that few traffic light signals remained out of order in Delhi for some period, due to frequent power failure, voltage fluctuation, break-down, theft of controller and its vital

parts, cable damage caused by road, digging , etc.

(b) and (c) The contract for the maintenance of traffic signals/blinkers for the current financial year has been assigned to M/s Keltron, a public sector undertaking. However, the contract for such maintenance during the preceding year was awarded to a private concern, namely, M/s CMS Traffic Systems Ltd. and the expenditure incurred during the Year (1997-98) was to the tune of Rs. 2,42,57,930/-

(d) The work of maintenance/ installation of traffic signals/blinkers in entire Delhi is awarded annually to a professional agency on technical competence-cum-lowest rate. basis to ensure their proper maintenance. This apart, Delhi Police have approached Delhi Vidyut Board and New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC) to provide adequate power supply to traffic signals/blinkers.

Special Packages for North-East

1567. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of Government on the Commitments of two former Prime Ministers through special packages to the North-East during the last two years; and

(b) the details of notifications or new additions, if any, proposed on such national commitment and its plan to implement the package?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The special packages would be continued.

(b) No new development package has been announced for North-Eastern States.

Seizures by Delhi Police

1568. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the seizures and searches made/carried out by the Central District Police, Delhi during 1996, month-wise and police station-wise; and

(b) the outcome thereof, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 184, Annexure no. 49]

Crimes in Delhi

1569. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Delhi are living in constant fear and terror due to the heinous crimes of murders, dacoities and rapes occuring almost daily; and

(b) if so, the concrete and effective steps taken or proposed to be taken to and this nightmarish life of the Delhites?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The crime figures for the first five months of 1997 and 1998 show that while murders and dacoities have registered some increase, the cases of rape have registered a decline. The comparative figures are as under:

Period	Murder	Dacoity	Rape
1.1.97 to 31.5.97	252	11	227
1.1.98 to 31.5.98	268	16	145

The position regarding the law and order situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is reviewed by the Government from time to time. The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent such crime include *inter-alia*, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meetings with the officers of neighbouring states; and deployment of women police near schools, colleges, markets and other conspicuous places.